

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A command processor on a computer system comprising:

a graphical user interface for providing a graphical interface to the computer system; and

a command interpreter for interpreting commands from a user and for modifying the graphical user interface according to the interpreted commands.

2. The command processor of claim 1 wherein the graphical user interface is modifiable by the user at run time.

3. The command processor of claim 1 wherein the command interpreter interprets user commands to produce graphical objects within the graphical user interface.

4. The command process of claim 3 wherein the command interpreter interprets user commands to assign functionality to the graphical objects.

5. The command processor of claim 1 and further comprising:

a suite of integrated circuit design tools, each design tool of the suite having a functionality corresponding to one or

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more steps in a design flow process of an integrated circuit.

6. The command processor of claim 5 wherein the command processor loads each design tool into the graphical user interface based on user commands.

7. The command processor of claim 1 and further comprising:

a graphics engine tool for drawing contents of a database into the graphical user interface based on a user command.

8. A method of providing a fully customizable graphical user interface comprising:

upon execution of a command processor, loading a top level TCL command into a namespace;

building graphical objects according to TCL commands;

assigning functionality to the built graphical objects according to TCL commands; and

displaying a user-interactive window containing the graphical objects according to TCL commands.

9. The method of claim 8 and further comprising:

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performing functions based on user interactions with the graphical objects according to their assigned functionality.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the graphical objects are selected from a group consisting of windows, window panes, buttons, and menus.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of assigning comprises:
creating a TCL script corresponding to a circuit design function; and
assigning the TCL script to one of the graphical objects.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the one of the graphical objects is a button.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the one of the graphical objects is an item within a pull-down menu.

14. The method of claim 8 and further comprising:
changing a look and feel of the graphical user interface during a circuit design process.

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15. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of changing comprises:

creating new graphical objects using TCL commands; and
assigning functionality to the new graphical objects.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of changing comprises:

loading a new top level TCL command into the namespace;
building graphical objects according to the new top level TCL commands;
assigning functionality to the built graphical objects according to the new TCL commands; and
displaying the user-interactive window containing the graphical objects according to the new TCL commands.

17. The method of claim 8 wherein before the step of building, the method further comprises:

creating a TCL interpreter object;
connecting input and output channels; and
creating room builder objects.

18. The method of claim 8 wherein the steps of building and assigning comprises:

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loading a user specified TCL command
configuration script.

19. A method of providing a graphical user
interface having no hard coded objects, the method
comprising:

loading a top level TCL command into a
namespace upon execution of a command
processor;

providing a command interpreter for
interpreting commands from a user; and

assembling a graphical user interface based
on interpreted commands from the user;

wherein all objects within the graphical
user interface are user defined.

20. The method of claim 19 and further
comprising:

changing the graphical user interface based
on changing commands from the user; and

displaying a changed graphical user
interface during operation based on the
changing commands.

21. The method of claim 19 and further
comprising:

interfacing with a suite of integrated
circuit design tools for producing a

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integrated circuit layout and
associated netlist.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the step of
interfacing comprises:

loading a design tool from the suite of
design tools into the graphical user
interface based on a user command.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the user
command is assigned to a graphical object.

24. An integrated circuit software design suite
comprising:

a command processor having a graphical user
interface and a command interpreter for
interpreting user commands, the
graphical user interface specified
entirely by a user at run time; and

one or more design tools corresponding to
processes within an integrated circuit
design process;

wherein the one or more design tools operate
under control of the command processor
and within the graphical user
interface.